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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,407	01/31/2001	Memphis Zhihong Yin	10006641.1	4244

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EXAMINER

CHAI, LONGBIT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/773,407	YIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Longbit Chai	2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/31/2002</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. No claim for priority has been made in this application.
2. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is 1/31/2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1 – 5, 7, 9 – 17, 27 – 30, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ilan (Patent Number: US 6668081 B1), hereinafter referred to as Ilan.
4. As per claims 1 and 12, Ilan teaches a method for permitting access to an electronic system, comprising:
 - a. receiving at least a first and second signal, wherein each signal indicates a state change of a corresponding switch, wherein each state change is in response to a selector being urged in a particular direction (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 49 – 59 and Figure 2B: The touchpad pointing device captures the signals from a group of pressure sensitive switches as the finger urged in a particular direction).

- b. said electronic system comparing each signal with a group of predetermined signals and a direction associated with each signal of said group of predetermined signals (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 49 – 59 and Figure 2B: The touchpad pointing device captures the signals from a group of pressure sensitive switches as the finger urged in a particular direction); and
- c. permitting access to an operating mode of said electronic system when said comparing action determines that each signal accords with said group of predetermined signals and said direction associated with each signal of said group of predetermined signals (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 10 – 12 and Column 4 Line 7 – 9).

5. As per claims 27 and 30, Ilan teaches a method for permitting access to a computing device, comprising:
 - a. receiving signals from a touchpad, said signals representing the movements of a user's finger tracing a pattern on said touchpad (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 49 – 59 and Figure 2B),
 - b. comparing said signals with at least one group of predetermined signals associated with movements of said user's finger tracing said pattern on said touchpad (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 49 – 59 and Figure 2B); and
 - c. permitting access to an operating mode of said computing device when said comparing action determines that said signals representing movements of said user's finger tracing a pattern on said touchpad accords with said at least one group of predetermined signals associated with movements of said user's finger tracing said

pattern on said touchpad (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 10 – 12 and Column 4 Line 7 – 9).

6. As per claim 2, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1). Ilan further teaches electronic system is a computing device (Ilan: see for example, Column 2 Line 59 – 60).

7. As per claims 3 and 14, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 2 and 12 respectively). Ilan further teaches selector is located on a cover of said computing device (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B: Ilan discloses the security device can be attached to the chassis through an external wire connection. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the Ilan reference by placing the selector on top of the cover when the cover is closed).

8. As per claims 4, 15, 29, and 33, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 2, 12, 28 and 30 respectively). Ilan further teaches selector is located proximate to a keyboard of said laptop computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2A).

9. As per claim 5, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 4). Ilan further teaches first and second signals are generated using directional arrow keys which are proximate to a key board of said laptop computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1: Touchpad pointing device is qualified to work as directional arrow keys with the finger movement pressing (or urging) toward the edges of four different sides).

10. As per claims 7 and 13, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1 and 12 respectively). Ilan further teaches selector is located on an external

device, and wherein said external device is coupled to said electronic system through an input to said electronic system (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B).

11. As per claim 9, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1). Ilan further teaches said electronic system is a portable messaging device, and said selector is located on a housing of said portable messaging device (Ilan: see for example, Column 3 Line 35).

12. As per claim 10, and 16, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1 and 15 respectively). Ilan further teaches said first and second signals are generated by way of said selector being urged in substantially orthogonal directions (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1: Touchpad pointing device is qualified to work as directional arrow keys with the finger movement pressing (or urging) toward the edges of four different sides).

13. As per claim 11 and 17, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1 and 12). Ilan further teaches said first and second signals are generated by way of said selector being urged in substantially opposite directions (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1: Touchpad pointing device is qualified to work as directional arrow keys with the finger movement pressing (or urging) toward the edges of four different sides).

14. As per claim 28 and 32, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 27 and 30). Ilan further teaches said computing device is a laptop computer (Ilan: see for example, Column 3 Line 35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 18, 19, and 21 – 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan (Patent Number: US 6668081 B1), hereinafter referred to as Ilan, in view of Pirdy (Patent Number: 6151218), hereinafter referred to as Pirdy.

16. As per claim 18, Ilan teaches In a portable computer, a method of permitting said portable computer to be removed from a docking station, comprising:

- a. receiving a first signal which conveys that a selector has been urged toward a first direction (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 49 – 59 and Figure 2B: The touchpad pointing device captures the signals from a group of pressure sensitive switches as the finger urged in a particular direction);
- b. receiving a second signal which conveys that said selector has been urged along a second direction, said second direction being different from said first direction (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 49 – 59 and Figure 2B: The touchpad pointing device captures the signals from a group of pressure sensitive switches as the finger urged in a particular direction);

c. comparing said first and second signals with a predetermined sequence of signals, each signal of said predetermined sequence of signal being associated with a particular direction (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 10 – 12 and Column 4 Line 7 – 9); and

17. Ilan does not teach permitting undocking of said portable computer when said comparing action determines that said first and second signals accord with said predetermined sequence of signals.

18. Pirdy teaches:

d. permitting undocking of said portable computer when said comparing action determines that said first and second signals accord with said predetermined sequence of signals (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 4 – 12 and Column 2 Line 26 – 31).

19. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Pirdy within the system of Ilan because (a) Pirdy teaches undocking of a portable computer by receiving the proper password, and (b) Ilan teaches the password entry can be replaced by a recognizable input pattern through a touchpad pointing device (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 10 – 12 and Column 4 Line 7 – 9).

20. As per claim 19, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified further teaches selector is located on an external device, and wherein said external device is coupled to said electronic system through an input to said electronic system (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B).

21. As per claim 21, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified further teaches selector is located on a cover of said computing device (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B: Ilan discloses the security device can be attached to the chassis through an external wire connection. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the Ilan reference by placing the selector on top of the cover when the cover is closed).

22. As per claim 22, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified further teaches selector is located proximate to a keyboard of said laptop computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2A).

23. As per claim 23, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified further teaches said first and second signals are generated by way of said selector being urged in substantially orthogonal directions (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1: Touchpad pointing device is qualified to work as directional arrow keys with the finger movement pressing (or urging) toward the edges of four different sides).

24. As per claim 24, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified further teaches said first and second signals are generated by way of said selector being urged in substantially opposite directions (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1: Touchpad pointing device is qualified to work as directional arrow keys with the finger movement pressing (or urging) toward the edges of four different sides).

25. As per claim 25, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified further teaches said permitting action includes said portable computer releasing a retaining device (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 26 – 31).

26. As per claim 26, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified further teaches said permitting action includes a docking station releasing a retaining device which is used to retain said portable computer (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 26 – 31).

27. Claims 6, 8 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan (Patent Number: US 6668081 B1), hereinafter referred to as Ilan, in view of Lambert (Patent Number: US 6193153 B1), hereinafter referred to as Lambert.

28. As per claims 6 and 31, Ilan teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claims 2 and 30 respectively). Ilan teaches providing security to the computer through touchpad pointing device. Ilan does not expressly teach permitting action further comprises allowing a user to access a protected file.

29. Lamber teaches:

30. permitting action further comprises allowing a user to access a protected file (Lambert: see for example, Column 3 Line 20 – 24).

31. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Lambert within the system of Ilan

because Lambert teaches not only a security method through user input pattern recognition but also extending the security coverage.

32. As per claim 8, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 7). Ilan as modified further teaches input to said electronic system is by way of a wireless interface (Lambert: see for example, Column 6 Line 41).

33. Same rationale of combination applies herein as above in rejecting the claim 6.

34.

35. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan (Patent Number: US 6668081 B1), hereinafter referred to as Ilan, in view of Pirdy (Patent Number: 6151218), hereinafter referred to as Pirdy and in view of Wilson (Patent Number: 5901934), hereinafter referred to as Wilson.

36. As per claim 20, Ilan as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Ilan as modified does not teach said selector is located on a retractable surface which emanates from the case of said portable computer.

37. Wilson teaches said selector is located on a retractable surface which emanates from the case of said portable computer (Wilson: see for example, Column 1 Line 42 – 45, Column 1 Line 49 – 51 and Column 2 Line 40 – 44).

38. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Wilson within the system of Ilan as modified because Wilson discloses manufacturers and designers of portable computers

have addresses the need to include a pointing device by including built-in touchpad by using retractable surface techniques on a portable computer (Wilson: see for example, Column 1 Line 42 – 45).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 703-305-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Longbit Chai
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

LBC


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